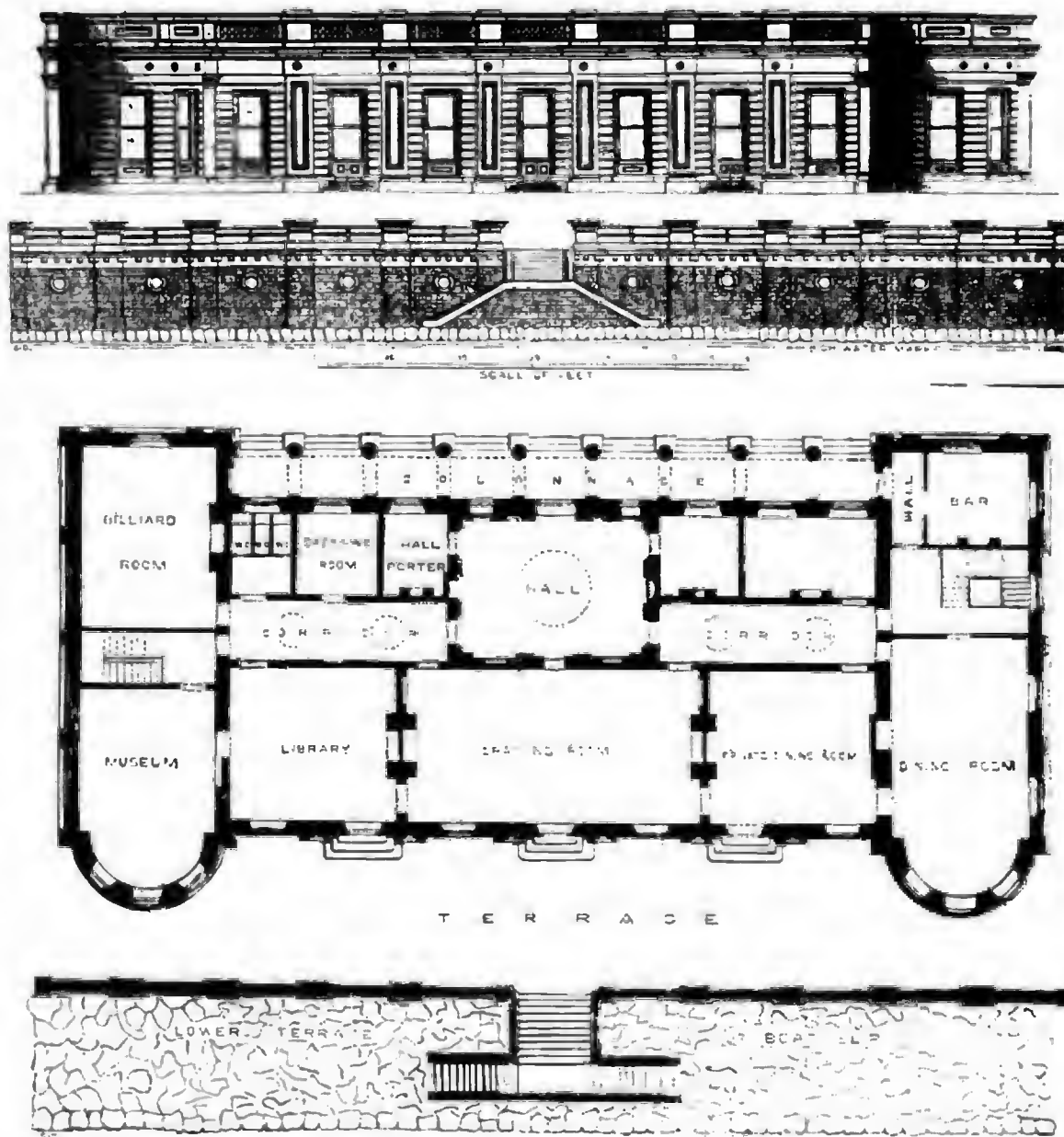


## THE ROYAL IRISH YACHT CLUBHOUSE, KINGSTOWN.—MR. J. S. MULVANY, ARCHT.



## THE ROYAL IRISH YACHT CLUBHOUSE, KINGSTOWN.

THE Royal Irish Yacht Clubhouse, Kingstown, county Dublin, of which a view of the water front and a plan are annexed, has been lately erected from the designs of Mr. J. S. Mulvany, architect. It is situated near the terminus of the Dublin and Kingstown Railway, from which a good view of the building is obtained. The exterior of the building is executed in Roman cement. The principal entrance is in the elevation facing the railway, in the centre of a colonnade, composed of eight Ionic columns, 15 feet 3 inches high. In front of the marine elevation is a terrace, supported by a substantial retaining wall, composed of hammer-dressed black stone, with cornice supported on cantilever blocks, surmounted by a parapet of granite. This terrace was designed for the purpose of affording the members and their friends an opportunity of witnessing the regattas which take place in the harbour; and a portion of the roof of the clubhouse is constructed flat, to serve as a platform for the same purpose.

The following are the dimensions of the principal rooms:—Drawing-room, 43 feet

6 inches by 21 feet; dining-room, 36 feet by 19 feet; library, 23 feet 6 inches by 21 feet; museum, 28 feet by 19 feet; billiard-room, 25 feet by 19 feet; hall, 24 feet 6 inches by 20 feet; and committee-room, 20 feet by 11 feet.

## THE DECORATION OF THE BUILDING FOR THE EXHIBITION.

Economy being the chief recommendation in the use of the materials of the present building, to look for any thing like symmetrical design or artistic beauty, is to expect, probably, what never entered into the mind of its originator to supply. Nor could it well be expected: necessity demanded a building of enormous length, rendering a harmonious proportion of due height next to impossible. Iron bars are employed in the most simple forms, in reference to their geometric strength rather than their architectural beauty. It seems necessarily to follow, that any fantastic display of decoration of these simple forms would be a violation of all consistency; yet I would not infer that no kind of embellishment is at all admissible, provided it can be given with a due sense of propriety. The ancient

Greeks well understood this principle: indeed, it seems to have been with them a great governing law, which is so abundantly exemplified by their beautiful works, both in sculpture and architecture.

If propriety, then, is a rule to be applied to the decoration of this great building, it would follow that the metallic character of its structure ought to be inviolably preserved.

Merely a pleasing assemblage of colours is not all that is required in suitable decoration: there is a higher principle, more connected with the mind, that has to be considered, as in this instance. The known properties of metal convey to us the idea of strength, and a sense of security wherever it is employed. Only let us be impressed with the idea of danger, by standing under an expansive roof, sustained by what appears to be slight and narrow columns of wood, and the pleasure intended to be conveyed by their outside decorations of colours, would be more than counteracted by this irresistible impulse of our nature.

Conceiving, then, that to preserve the appearance of metal is essential, the obstacle to be overcome is to find one of a proper colour: as those of a yellow or green tinge do